

**SEBASTIAN COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2019@ 7:00 P.M.
GREENWOOD COURTHOUSE 2ND FLOOR
GREENWOOD, ARKANSAS**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Judge Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Invocation

Johnny Hobbs lead the Invocation.

C. Roll Call

Sharon Brooks called the roll.

Linda Murry	Jackie Davis	Danny Aldridge	Dickie Robertson
Steve Schwartz	Shawn Looper	Jim Medley	
Rick Reedy	James Butler	Valeria Robinson	
Johnny Hobbs	John Spradlin	Rhonda Royal	

All 13 members were present.

Next Item:

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

Next Item:

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 17, 2019 Regular Meeting

Linda Murry stated that she noticed that the Public Defender's officer request failed at the last meeting, and she wishes she was present, so that her vote would have made a difference.

Valeria Robinson mentioned that her name was misspelled once in the minutes. Judge Hudson stated that the minutes will be corrected.

Johnny Hobbs made a motion to approve the minutes with the added correction. Jackie Davis seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Next Item:

IV. COUNTY 4-H PRESENTATION

4H Agent Araceli Oswald addressed the Quorum Court and thanked them for their support. She was accompanied by four members of the organization, AJ Russell, Emily Dunn, Kimber Campbell, and Jenna Frederick. They all addressed the Quorum Court and spoke about how the 4-H Club has impacted their personal lives.

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Next Item:

IV. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REGULAR REPORTS

A. Executive Report of the County Judge

Judge Hudson presented the Executive Report addressing the following Items:

1. Replacement of Circuit Courtroom Sound System

Judge Hudson stated that the sound system in Judge Tabor's Circuit Courtroom has been malfunctioning. He recommended it should be replaced, the cost will be \$9,364.

Danny Aldridge made a motion to allow a purchase order to be issued against the Emergency and Contingency Budget. Jackie Davis seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Next Item:

2. Letter from Public Defender Commission Executive Director

Judge Hudson read the briefing letter addressed to him by Executive Director Gregg Parrish. Letter is included in the packet.

Linda Murry asked if there can be a motion to add this back to the agenda. Judge Hudson said that it needed one vote to pass at the last meeting, and once he turns the meeting over to Shawn, the issue can be discussed again.

Next Item:

3. Joint Meeting October 24, 2019 6:00 PM Ben Geren Park Safe Shelter to Review the Aquatics Program

Next Item:

4. Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority Board Meeting

Judge Hudson stated that he was out of town that day. He recommended the article written by City Wire which gives a very good briefing.

Next Item:

B. Criminal Justice System and Jail Population Management Report

The management team will be back in Fort Smith on November 4. Mark Goldman will lead a discussion on the subject. There will be a meeting on November 4, 7:00 PM, at Ben Geren Safe Shelter, to which the officials and the public are invited.

Next Item:

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review FLSA Revision and Impact on the 2020 Budget

Judge Hudson said that the issue is that if the employees don't make a salary of \$35,568 per year, they cannot be classified as exempt. The "exempt" status does not allow exempt employees overtime.

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Linda Murry asked about the status on the generator. Judge Hudson stated that there were no details at this time and that only one bid came in yesterday. He added that he will meet with Judith Miller again and will have a proposal in November.

Next, Linda Murry made a motion to reconsider the request of the Public Defender's position and add it to the agenda. Jackie Davis seconded the motion.

There was a brief discussion.

Sharon Brooks called the roll.

The motion passed unanimously with 13 Yes votes.

The next Item was the salary of the Election Commissioner exempt position.

Danny Aldridge made a motion to follow the Department of Labor's recommendation to pay a \$35,568 yearly salary for 2020. Jim Medley seconded the motion.

After a brief discussion, Danny amended his motion to state "for one year, and during that year, the employee will keep an accurate record of the worked hours."

The motion passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Next Item:

B. Review the Proposed 2020 Budget

Judge Hudson presented the Power Point 2020 Budget Briefing.

Next Item:

C. Question and Answer Session Regarding Budget Proposals

Shawn Looper requested clarification on the County Recorder's Cost Fund and the Treasurer's Commission Fund. Sharon provided the members with a written response, which she distributed.

Sharon and Judith addressed the Quorum Court to answer any questions the members might have.

Judge Hudson brought up a couple of decisions Sharon made regarding the Budget.

Sharon explained that her decisions regarding the Recorder's Fund were made based on keeping the fund from going into the red because she wanted to avoid that.

Sharon added that the Recorder's Fund current balance is \$805,000 but it will be reduced considerably after all expenses are paid by the end of the year.

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Shawn Looper stated that he doesn't agree with the fact that offices hold such balances in their accounts, when it's the schools and tax payer's money.

Judith Miller answered by recommending that the funds be looked at as savings.

Sharon added that she is not holding any funds, the money is being used.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Danny Aldridge addressed the Board regarding Health and Dental Insurance for County Employees and would like to discuss it in the November meeting. He stated a law was recently passed by the Legislature on the subject. He requested the cost that JP's would have to pay to personally purchase additional insurances. He made it clear that the law states that the insurance is not to be paid with Taxpayer Funds, he just wants to check into prices and availability for an individual purchase. He suggested checking the actions and decisions in other counties on the subject and decide if this option should be made available to the Sebastian County Quorum Court members.

Danny Aldridge made a request that the above-mentioned Health Insurance Item be added to the next meeting Agenda.

Steve Hotz addressed Danny Aldridge's request and stated that as far as the other coverages, he already talked to carriers and they would allow the QC to have Vision Insurance but other insurance such as life, cancer and disability are all driven by salary and wouldn't fit their plan. The members would have to find other carriers.

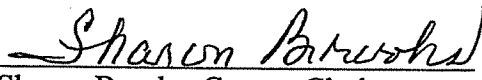
Shawn Looper made a motion to adjourn.

Jackie Davis seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously by Voice Vote

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Sharon Brooks, County Clerk


Marcela White, Deputy Clerk